

Immunization Registry Progress in Wisconsin

Immunization Coverage in Wisconsin

According to National Immunization Survey (NIS) data for July 1998 to June 1999, the percentage of children 19-35 months of age who were up-to-date with 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, 3 doses of poliomyelitis, and 1 dose of measles, mumps, rubella vaccine was 83%.

Facts about the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR):

- WIR is being developed under direction of the Immunization Program of the Division of Public Health, and in cooperation with the Division of Health Care Finance, Department of Health and Family Services. Public and private providers will have direct access to the central registry via the Internet. In addition to direct access, software is also being developed to provide stand-alone provider immunization registry that will be interfaced to and synchronized with the WIR Central Registry. This will be especially helpful to local health departments that provide satellite immunization clinics at sites that do not have internet access. A standard interface for existing provider immunization registries has been developed using the CDC recommended Health Level 7 (HL7) Standard for computer exchange of immunization data. Therefore, providers will have the option of a stand-alone or web-based immunization registry, or they can continue to use their existing system.
- An interface has been developed with Vital Statistics which transfers state birth data into the WIR with 14 days of the birth. Death and Adoption data is also transferred.
- Pilot testing of the Web based system began in October 1999. As of April 15, 2000 there are:
 - 23 operational sites (21 Public, 2 Private)
 - 569,223 total unduplicated clients - total entered by Vital Statistics and providers
 - 290,563 clients with immunization records on file
 - 1,785,939 total immunizations
- Statewide implementation is set to begin in May 2000

Other registry plans, accomplishments, and successes

- A significant accomplishment is WIR's partnership with the Division of Health Care Finance (DHCF). The fiscal agent for the Medicaid Program is the vendor chosen to complete the project. The DHCF has a significant interest in the registry in that it will assist managed care agencies to gather data from non-affiliated providers and therefore support them in meeting immunization coverage requirements. DHCF is also assisting in seeking of the funds necessary for ongoing development, support and implementation.

- WIR has created an Immunization Registry Advisory Workgroup made up of representatives of public and private providers, managed care, DHCF and the Marshfield Clinic. The Workgroup gives overall direction to registry development by reviewing “draft” documents and policies and procedures.
- WIR has maintained a close working relationship with the Marshfield Clinic. They have developed the Regional Early Childhood Immunization Network (RECIN) which serves their numerous clinic sites in central and northern Wisconsin and also has linkages with many public providers in their service area. An interface will exist between WIR and RECIN.

Some challenges and barriers affecting registry progress

Periodic mailings have been sent out informing providers of the status of registry development. In addition WIR has met with a number of major proprietary clinical services agencies to get their input and share ideas. Demonstrations of the WIR have been held throughout the state and have received very favorable reviews by public and private providers alike. The Immunization Program as a whole is making a major effort to strengthen the public/private partnership in regards to immunizations. The registry program has created the Wisconsin Council of Immunization Practices (WCIP) as an advisory group to the Program to give direction on all aspects on vaccine delivery. Immunization Registry issues are a regular part of the WCIP meeting agenda. As a result of these activities, the Immunization Program continues to receive inquiries from providers interested in implementing WIR in their practices.

Current political or legislative factors affecting registry activity

It is the belief of WIR that the legislature is in support of the concept of Immunization Registry development. However, because of the delays in development, due in part to the demise of the original software developer, they are taking a wait-and-see attitude regarding funding. WIR has sufficient funds for registry development, but long term maintenance and support is not assured.

Helpful immunization and immunization registry contacts in Wisconsin

Registry Contact Person:

Name: Dan Hopfensperger
 Address: Wisconsin Division of Health
 1414 E. Washington Avenue, Room 251A
 P.O. Box 309
 Madison, WI 53701-0309
 Phone: 608.266.1339
 Fax: 608.267.9493
 Email: HOPFEDJ@dhfs.state.wi.us